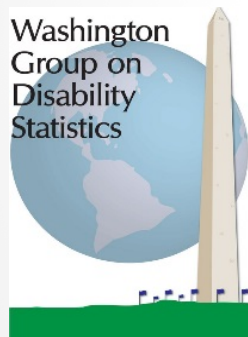


# Issues in Analyzing Disability Data

Daniel Mont

Center for Inclusive Policy  
and

Washington Group on Disability Statistics



# Analytical Issues

- Heterogeneity
  - Type and degree of disability
  - Age of onset
- Prevalence versus Incidence
- Moving beyond cross-tabs

# Heterogeneity

- People with different degrees and types of disability may face different degrees and types of barriers.
- Combining all people into one group of “people with disabilities” can mask different impacts.
- Changing the cutoff in a binary model of disability will change the measured impact.
  - Most severe cutoff will show biggest difference in outcomes between those with and without disabilities.
  - Least severe cutoff will raise prevalence but show smallest difference in outcomes.

# Example: Disability and Poverty

- Most people assume there's a clear correlation between disability and poverty (as measured by consumption or income).
- Confounding factors
  - Heterogeneity of disabled populations
  - Appropriate measure of poverty



# Heterogeneity of Population

- Type of Disability
  - Environmental barriers can differ by type of disability
  - Causes (and their relation to poverty) can differ by type of disability
- Age of Onset
  - Most people become disabled when older
  - Accumulated wealth and skills; children to rely on
- As countries get richer, people live longer, and age is correlated with disability.
- Poor people with disabilities may have higher mortality rates and so “disappear” from data (prevalence versus incidence).

# Appropriate Measure of Poverty

- **Extra costs of living**, so standard consumption measures of poverty inadequate.
- Discrimination of allocation of resources within the household.
- In fact, disability **more correlated with multi-dimensional measures of poverty** than with consumption measures.

# Take Home Messages

- Care should be taken to use high quality disability questions because poor questions can create misleading information.
- Prevalence and disaggregation are important first steps in analyzing data.
- Disability is complex and very heterogeneous and analysis should take that into account.
- To determine barriers to participation need to collect information on the environment.

**THANK YOU**